

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

66610

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:JSWIHART

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:ASHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 069719

EXDIS-MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 5134 ACTION SECSTATE INFO  
PHNOM PENH SAIGON 27 MAR

QUOTE

S E C R E T BANGKOK 5134

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS CINCPAC AND USSAG

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJ: CAMBODIA

REF : (A) STATE 66977; (B) BANGKOK 4888 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE DO NOT BELIEVE PROBLEM OF THAI  
COOPERATION IN EVACUATION OPERATIONS FROM CAMBODIA  
WILL BE A MAJOR ONE. THE THAI ARE AWARE OF OUR  
ORIGINAL PLANS IN SOME DETAIL AND HAVE ASSENTED TO  
THEM. PROBLEMS ARE FORESEEABLE IN CONNECTION WITH  
EVACUATION LARGE NUMBER OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONS

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ADDED RECENTLY, BUT WE CANNOT DEFINE THESE PROBLEMS

OR RECOMMEND HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM IN THE ABSENCE  
OF INFORMATION WE HAVE SOUGHT BUT NOT YET RECEIVED  
(REF B). END SUMMARY

1. ON 1 FEBRUARY 1974, MISSION, THROUGH LETTER  
FROM COMUSMACTHAI GENERAL MELLEN, ACQUAINTED  
SUPREME COMMAND WITH REASONABLE DETAILED US EVACUA-  
TION PLANS FOR CAMBODIA. THAI ARE AWARE OF THE  
FACT THAT THESE PLANS INCLUDE SOME THIRD COUNTRY  
NATIONALS, FOR WHOM THAI WERE TOLD US MISSION  
WOULD ASSUME CARE AND WELFARE RESPONSIBILITY.

2. A MONTH AGO, COMUSMACTHAI AND POMIL COUNS  
IN CONVERSATION WITH SUPREME COMMAND CHIEF OF  
STAFF, GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN, REMINDED KRIANGSAK  
OF MELLEN LETTER. THEY TOLD KRIANGSAK THAT THE  
SECURITY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA MADE IT NECESSARY  
REVIEW EVACUATION PLANS. CURRENT PLANS, THEY SAID,  
WERE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THOSE DESCRIBED IN  
THE MELLEN LETTER. KRIANGSAK INDICATED UNDERSTANDING  
OF THIS AND SAID HE SAW NO DIFFICULTY IN IT. (FACT  
THAT US EVACUATION WILL INCLUDE SOME THAI OFFICIALS  
SHOULD REENFORCE THAILAND'S COOPERATIVENESS.)

3. IN REF B, WE REQUESTED INFORMATION CONCERNING  
LARGE NUMBERS OF CAMBODIANS, BOTH US EMPLOYEES AND  
DEPENDENTS AND KEY CAMBODIAN PERSONNEL, RECENTLY  
ADDED TO EVACUATION PLAN. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE THAI  
WOULD PREVENT ARRIVAL OF SUCH PERSONNEL IN THAILAND,  
BUT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO RETAIN THEM HERE IS HIGHLY  
DOUBTFUL. WE HAVE NOT RAISED THIS MATTER WITH  
SUPREME COMMAND BECAUSE WE DO NOT KNOW USG PLANS  
FOR THESE CAMBODIANS, E.G. WHETHER IT WOULD BE  
OUR INTENT TO MOVE THEM ONWARD QUICKLY ONCE EXTRACTED  
FROM CAMBODIA, OR WHETHER THEY WOULD BE EXPECTED  
TO REMAIN IN THAILAND FOR SOME TIME, AND WHO WOULD  
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR WELFARE WHILE HERE.  
WE WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO PROVIDE ASSESS-  
MENT REQUESTED IN PARA 3, REF A, IF WE HAD ANSWERS  
TO THOSE QUESTIONS.

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4. RE PARA 4, REF A, SIMILAR QUESTIONS ARISE. WE  
WOULD EXPECT THAILAND TO BE GENERALLY COOPERATIVE,  
BUT FOR PURPOSES OF OUR OWN ADVANCE PLANNING AND  
ANY NECESSARY COORDINATION WITH RTG, WE REQUIRE  
CONSIDERABLY MORE INFORMATION THAN WE NOW HAVE  
ON NUMBERS AND NATIONALITIES OF PEOPLE INVOLVED,  
ULTIMATE DESTINATION, CURRENT DOCUMENTATION, EXTENT

OF US RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPPORT, ETC.

5. CURRENT THAI ATTITUDE TOWARD CAMBODIA IN GENERAL IS ONE OF WATCHFUL AND NERVOUS WAITING. WHILE RTG HOPES NON-COMMUNIST LON NOL-TYPE GOVERNMENT WILL SURVIVE, RTG IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DUBIOUS AND THEREFORE WISHES TO LEAVE ITS OPTIONS AS WIDE OPEN AS POSSIBLE IN TERMS OF RELATIONS WITH A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT. ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, AS COPIOUSLY REPORTED BY US, ARE AIMED AT THIS LATER OBJECTIVE, BUT ITS LACK OF ACTION UP TO THIS POINT TO INTERFERE WITH OUR SUPPORT ACTIVITIES REFLECTS BOTH THE FORMER OBJECTIVE AND RTG'S UNWILLINGNESS TO CONFRONT THE US. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, RATHER THAN FORMALLY SEEKING OFFICIAL "CLARIFICATION" OF RTG'S ATTITUDE TOWARD CAMBODIA, AND PARTICULARLY TOWARD US SUPPORT OF CAMBODIA OUT OF THAILAND, WE PREFER TO GATHER IT IN OTHER WAYS. (A FOLLOWING TELEGRAM DESCRIBING CHARGE'S CONVERSATION MARCH 27 WITH FORMIN CHARTCHAI SHEDS LIGHT ON THIS SUBJECT.)

6. WE NOTE GUIDANCE CONTAINED PARA 2, REF A, AND ARE ALREADY FOLLOWING IT.  
MASTERS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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